

The genus *Sitta* is separated into four subgenera. *Homositta* subgen. nov. (p. 152) type *S. castaneiventris* Frankl.; *Micrositta* subgen. nov. (p. 153) type *S. villosa* Verr.; *Leptositta* subgen. nov. (p. 153) type *S. leucopsis* Gould, and *Sitta* type *S. europæa* L.

Our *Sitta carolinensis* is arranged in subgenus *Leptositta*, while all our other North American species fall in *Micrositta*. No less than 22 races of *Sitta europæa* are recognized! This paper is evidently the result of much study and deserves careful consideration.

The following new forms are described: *S. europæa sakhalinensis* (p. 158), Saghalien Isl.; *S. e. hondoensis* (p. 160), Hondo Isl.; and *Rupicitta tephronota iranica* (p. 165) N. E. Persia.—W. S.

Dabbene on Argentine Coots and Grebes.¹—In this interesting paper Mr. Dabbene describes the life histories of *Fulica armellata*, *F. rufifrons*, *Podiceps americanus* and *Podilymbus podiceps*. The nests and eggs are described and figured as well as the plumages of the young nestlings. A series of skins of *Fulica armellata* shows a gradual transition from a blackish downy nestling to a white-breasted juvenal plumage and finally to the slaty adult dress.—W. S.

Birds in Relation to the Dissemination of Mistletoes in the United States.—It is a relief to learn from two recent publications² on western mistletoes that birds are held to play only a minor rôle in the distribution of these destructive plants. The mistletoes considered are those of the genus *Razoumofskya*. The seeds are expelled from the capsules with such force that they have been observed to travel 66 feet with a fall of only 8 feet; aided by strong winds seeds from high trees are known to have carried a quarter of a mile. It is evident that the plants have no real necessity for animal carriers and it is stated by the author that the part played by birds is a minor one.

English sparrows and grouse have been observed to feed upon the seeds and they undoubtedly aid in dissemination of the plants. Both birds and rodents build nests among the mistletoes thus adding to the possibilities of seed distribution. The efficiency of these agents is limited, however, and Dr. D. T. MacDougal states that "the only localities which offer suitable conditions for the germination and growth of the seeds . . . are the tips of branches or the shoots of young trees beneath. It is to be seen that no animals are to be found in the habitat of the parasite which would in ordinary usage carry the seeds to these locations."³

So much for the dissemination of *Razoumofskya*; with our other genus

¹ Notas Biológicas sobre Gallaretas y Macas. Par Roberto Dabbene. Anu. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires, XXVIII, pp. 183-192. July 19, 1916.

² Weir, James R. Bull. 317, U. S. Dept. Agr., Jan. 20, 1916, p. 24, and Bull. 360, June 17, 1916, p. 34.

³ Minnesota Botanical Studies 2, p. 172, 1899.